

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 05550 230841Z

15

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USCINCLANT

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5550

CINCEUR, CINCLANT FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, NATO, PL, PO

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 05550 230841Z

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY HEATS UP ON PORTUGAL

REF: MOSCOW 11772

1. COMMENTARY IN TRYBUNA LUDU AND ZYCIE WARSZAWY IN THE PAST WEEK HAS STEPPED UP THE PRESSURE OVER PORTUGAL. AN UNSIGNED TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE AUGUST 16-17 EDITION ACTUALLY QUOTED FROM TWO OF THE TEN CSCE PRINCIPLES TO DEMAND PROTECTION FOR PORTUGAL AGAINST ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE FREEDOM TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLITICAL STATUS. THE ARTICLE'S MAIN TARGET WAS THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHOM IT ACCUSED OF "OPEN INTERFERENCE," BECAUSE OF THEIR SO-CALLED CONDITIONED SUPPORT OF SOARES. HOWEVER, IT NOTED THAT "WELL-DEFINED AMERICAN CIRCLES" ARE NOT REMAINING BEHIND IN THIS AND "EXTREME ANTI-COMMUNIST CIRCLES" ARE ATTEMPTING TO AVERT ATTENTION THROUGH "ABSURD ALLEGATIONS" ABOUT INTERFERENCE FROM MOSCOW.

2. THE MOST EXTREME COMMENT SO FAR APPEARED IN A LONG ARTICLE IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON AUGUST 20 BY ZBIGNIEW RAMOTOWSKI, ENTITLED "PORTUGUESE HOUR OF THRUTH." IN OBVIOUS REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S BIRMINGHAM SPEECH, IT ATTACKED THOSE WHO "ABSURDLY" CHARGE THAT PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MOSCOW. RAMOTOWSKI CITED A "CERTAIN AMERICAN POLITICIAN (SIC)" WHO IN ALABAMA CAUTIONED CUNHAL'S "IMAGINARY FOREIGN ADVISERS" AND STATED THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE PORTUGUESE WANT DEMOCRACY. ASKING WHERE "KISSINGER AND THE OTHERS" FIND THESE DEMOCRATS, RAMOTOWSKI SUGGESTED THROUGH A SERIES OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS AND INNUENDO THAT THE FIGURE INCLUDES THE OLD FASCIST APPARATUS OF SALAZAR AND CAETANO, THE CONSERVATIVE CLERGY, AND ILLITERATE AND PEASANT MASSES WHO ARE POLITICALLY DIS-ORIENTED AND INFLUENCED BY REACTIONARY FORCES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT, THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION REMAINS ON THE FRONT PAGES UNDER INCREASINGLY ALARMED HEADLINES. DISCUSSION DURING THE PAST WEEK WITH POLISH OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND OTHERS SHOWS THEM TO BE GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR DETENTE, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY MOVEMENT, AND EVEN BREZHNEV'S LEADERSHIP POSITION.
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PAGE 03 WARSAW 05550 230841Z

5. RAMOTOWSKI'S POLEMICS AGAINST THE SECRETARY'S ALABAMA REMARKS WERE DELIVERED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS WE HAVE SEEN WITH REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY HIMSELF IN AT LEAST A YEAR. HERETOFORE, AMONG THE USG LEADERSHIP, ONLY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS DRAWN SUCH JIBES.
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